UNICEF's concern on illiteracy

2190. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNICEF has lately expressed concern about the extent of illiteracy and lack of basic education, indicating the increasing rate of children kept away from school;

(b) if so, what were precise facts brought out by UNICEF in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) UNICEF has not published any specific report on the lack of basic education in India. UNICEF has been chiefly involved in promoting children and women's development issues. After the World Conference on Education for All held in Jamtion in March, 1990, UNICEF has been playing an advocacy role in regard to Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE). Right from independence, India has been stressing to achieve UEE. Provision of free and compulsory education to all children upto the age of 14 years is a directive principle of the Coulstitution of India. The National Policy on Education, as revised in 1992, resolves that free and compulsory education of satisfactory quality is to be provided to all children upto 14 years of age before we enter the 21st century. The NPE Policy perspectives are reflected in the budgetary allocation for education.

UNESCO Report on Primary Education

2191. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNESCO report which reiewed the State of primary education based on 1990 data has placed India in 50th out of a total of 87 developing countries; if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so whether Government has examined the report;

(c) if so, what are the points mentioned in the report; and

(d) what are the efforts being made to improve the position in the world about the primary education in India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. A report entitled Status and Trend published by UNESCO for the International Consultative Forum on Eduation For All containing a table on status of Basic Education for Developing Countries in which India is ranked 50th amongst 87 developing countries on the basis of net enrolment ratio for primary schooling. This table has also worked out a country wise basic education index based on net enrolment ratio, survival rate, teacher pupil ratio, total literacy rate and male female literacy gap. Any statistical index involving different countries raises problems of methodology and data. The UNESCO Index exception: The report itself has sounded a note of caution for its use for poilcy conclusion.

(d) The revised Programme of Action which was laid on the table of both House of Parliament on 10th August, 1992 lay down a framework for Education for All which includes:

(i) Microplanning through a process